

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05
SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCT-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:YMW
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
DOD WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CIA
USIA WASHDC
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST
- MARCH 16

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS OF SPECIAL NEWS BRIEFING ON THE MIDDLE EAST HELD
EARLY EVENING MARCH 16, 1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN WAS
HODDING CARTER III.
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MR. CARTER: THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE HAVE BEEN
IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND
THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED THE SECRETARY TO REPORT OUR
POSITION TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

AT THE OUTSET LET ME SAY WE DEPLORE THIS NEW CYCLE OF
VIOLENCE WHICH ERUPTED IN THE TRAGIC KILLINGS IN ISRAEL
LAST SATURDAY AND CONTINUED WITH THE MILITARY ACTION AND
TRAGIC LOSS OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN LIVES IN LEBANON OVER THE
PAST TWO DAYS.

DURING THE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS
WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY DESCRIBED, OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN
HAS BEEN TO END AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THIS MOST RECENT
CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SO AS TO KEEP
ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON THE BASIC PROBLEMS WHICH PRODUCED IT.

THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS LIES IN THE
BROADER SEARCH FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS AND FOR
MEASURES WHICH WOULD RESTORE LONGTERM STABILITY IN
LEBANON. WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE DISTRACTED FROM EFFORTS
TO RESOLVE THESE BASIC PROBLEMS.

AS TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WE EXPECT
ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW, AND WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS IN THIS
RESPECT KNOWN TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALSO

BEGUN CONSULTATIONS ON ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD PROMOTE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THAT AREA FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE, WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE IDEA OF A UNITED NATIONS ROLE, AND WILL CONTINUE URGENT EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON REMAINS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN OUR CURRENT EFFORTS IS THE EXTENSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON TO SOUTH LEBANON. ANY ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS OBJECTIVE AND WITH THE DECISIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT.

Q. IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY THIS STATEMENT DOESN'T MENTION THE FACT THAT TERRORISTS ATTACKED ISRAEL? YOU SPEAK OF TWO VIOLENT ACTS AS IF THEY ARE SORT OF EQUAL AND KIND OF "THERE'S A LOT OF VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY." I LOOK BACK SINCE YOUR LAST BRIEFING TO WHAT WAS SAID DURING THE LAST GO-ROUND, THE LAST ATTACK ON ISRAEL, AND I REMEMBER THE PRESIDENT SAYING, IF THEY HADN'T BEEN THE VICTIM OF TERRORISM, OBVIOUSLY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE STRUCK BACK. I DON'T MEAN TO GET VAGUE HERE, BUT DID THIS NEED OTHER COUNTRIES' APPROVAL AND THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T MENTION TERRORISM?

A. WAIT A MINUTE. I ABSOLUTELY AND TOTALLY DENY EVEN THE FIRST INDICATION THAT WE ARE NOT, HAVE NOT, AND DO NOT ATTACK TERRORISM.

Q. I'M NOT CHARGING -- I'M ASKING IF THERE IS A REASON FOR LEAVING TERRORISM OUT?

A. NO, NONE. AND WHAT'S MORE, WE'VE ALREADY SPOKEN RATHER EMPHATICALLY ON THE SUBJECT. THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT; THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT AND I'VE ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM.

Q. ON THE SUBJECT OF WITHDRAWAL, ARE YOU SAYING THAT

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THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES ISRAELI FORCES MUST WITHDRAW FROM THAT CORRIDOR THEY ARE NOW OCCUPYING FIRST, AND THEN THERE WOULD BE SOME FORCE GOING INTO THAT AREA, OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS FORCE SHOULD BE WORKED OUT SO THAT THERE COULD BE A SORT OF TRANSITION

THERE?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WE HOPE THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE SOON, AND WE ARE WORKING FOR THAT END. IN ANY EVENT, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS ESSENTIAL.

Q. WHEN? SOON?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS.

Q. IS IT ACCURATE THAT YOU'RE CALLING ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW?

A. OF COURSE, WE'RE ASKING THEM TO WITHDRAW.

Q. BUT YOU SAY HERE, "WE EXPECT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW."

A. I'M NOT GIVING YOU A TIME LIMIT ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE A SIMULTANEOUS EQUATION AT WORK HERE THAT THE VACUUM IS IMMEDIATELY FILLED BY WHATEVER OTHER OPTION YOU'RE TAKING, OR DOES WITHDRAWAL TAKE PLACE AND YOU CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS TO ACHIEVE AN ARRANGEMENT?

A. THERE ARE TWO THINGS HERE. WE ARE, OF COURSE DISCUSSING NOW, AND URGENTLY, ARRANGEMENTS TO ACHIEVE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA. WE ARE ALSO SAYING HERE THAT WE EXPECT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO ISRAEL ON THIS SUBJECT, AND AS THE SENTENCE GOES ON TO SAY, WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN CONSULTATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD PROMOTE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THAT AREA FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

Q. YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED THE QUESTION, DO YOU EXPECT THE ISRAELI TROOPS TO GET OUT BEFORE THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE?

A. THE ANSWER IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE SAID: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS ESSENTIAL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. CAN WE GO OUT AND WRITE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CALLING ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW?

A. YES.

Q. IS THAT ACCURATE?

A. IT IS ACCURATE THAT WE HAVE ASKED ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE REACHED FOR --

A. WHAT WE HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY IS, WE RECOGNIZE ISRAEL HAS LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ABOUT THE THREAT TO ITS SECURITY POSED BY THE PALESTINIAN MILITARY UNITS IN THAT AREA. WE ARE CONCENTRATING URGENTLY ON MEASURES FOR SECURING SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. WE CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO REDUCE THE SECURITY THREAT TO ISRAEL FROM THAT AREA. I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY HOW THOSE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT. THAT IS THE AIM, AMONG OTHERS, THAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARD.

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Q. ISRAEL ANNOUNCED EXACTLY THE SAME THING THAT YOU ARE ANNOUNCING. DO YOU SEE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR POSITION AND THE ISRAELI POSITION?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO SQUARE THE TWO. THIS IS OUR POSITION THAT WE HAVE BOTH CONVEYED TO ISRAEL AND TO OTHER PARTIES IN THE AREA.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY INDICATION FROM ISRAEL THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THAT AREA?

A. NO. I THINK THAT OUR INDICATIONS FOLLOW VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN PUBLICLY SAID FROM ISRAEL.

Q. ISRAEL SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY WON'T WITHDRAW FROM THIS TERRITORY UNTIL THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE. IS THAT WHAT WE'RE SAYING, OR ARE WE SAYING THAT WE EXPECT THEM TO WITHDRAW EVEN IF ARRANGEMENTS AREN'T MADE?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS ESSENTIAL, AND WE ARE SAYING THAT AS A FACT, AND WE ARE ALSO WORKING FOR ARRANGEMENTS IN THAT AREA FOR SECURITY OF THE AREA, AND I AM SIMPLY NOT GOING BEYOND THOSE TWO STATEMENTS.

Q. IN YOUR ESTIMATE, WHAT IS THE SOONEST THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE, IF EVERYTHING WORKED JUST RIGHT?

A. I'M NOT SURE. I'M NOT SURE WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE IT IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR WHAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT I NOTICE FROM THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING TO CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THIS PARTICULAR

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SITUATION. WE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A CALL.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE U.S. SAY IF ISRAEL
WAITS UNTIL THE ARRANGEMENT IS MADE, IN RESPONSE TO WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING?

A. LET ME SAY THAT I WOULD HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE VARIOUS
NATIONS IN THE AREA HAVE TO SAY BEFORE I RESPOND TO IT.
I REALLY AM NOT NEGOTIATING WITH REPORTERS, AND I'M NOT
NEGOTIATING ON THE PART OF OUR GOVERNMENT WITH THE POS-
SIBILITIES. I CAN'T HANDLE IT.

Q. IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, DO
YOU MAKE YOURSELF CLEARER THAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF RIGHT
NOW? (LAUGHTER.) I MEAN DO THEY KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE
TO WITHDRAW BEFORE AN ARRANGEMENT IS MADE?

A. WE'RE AT LEAST AS UNAMBIGUOUS AS THEY ARE.

Q. YOU'RE DELIBERATELY MAKING IT AMBIGUOUS FOR YOUR
OWN DIPLOMATIC REASONS, BUT IT'S REALLY NOT CLEAR
WHETHER YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU AGREE WITH ISRAEL THAT
THERE HAS TO BE AN ARRANGEMENT BEFORE THEY'RE OBLIGATED

TO WITHDRAW WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVIET UNION VETOES SOME
RESOLUTION YOU MIGHT HAVE OR NOT.

A. I'VE READ YOU AND I'LL READ YOU TWO SENTENCES AGAIN.
QUOTE AS TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WE EXPECT
ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW AND WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS IN THIS
RESPECT KNOWN TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALSO
BEGUN CONSULTATIONS ON ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD PROMOTE
STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THAT AREA FOLLOWING ISRAELI
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WITHDRAWAL. UNQUOTE.

Q. IS YOUR EXPECTATION OF AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CONTIN-
GENT ON YOUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS?

Q. IF I READ THIS ENGLISH THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT,

YOU'RE SAYING IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS -- PERIOD -- YOU'RE
HOLDING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND YOU
DON'T EVEN HAVE A SOLID PROPOSAL HERE.

A. LET ME SAY THAT AMONG THE WAYS THAT WE HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSING, AND IN THE EVENT OF A UN SECURITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION, THAT WE WOULD EXPLORE EVEN MORE CLOSELY -- THAT IS, A CALL OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL -- THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE THERE. IF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WERE CALLED INTO SESSION, WHAT WE WOULD WANT TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT -- AND WE ARE NOW EXPLORING VERY URGENTLY -- IS THE QUESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES BE PREPARED TO PLAY A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN THAT FORCE?

A. IT HAS NOT BEEN A ROLE WHICH WE HAVE PLAYED IN THE PAST. IT IS NOT AT THIS POINT CONTEMPLATED. I KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR US TO PLAY A PHYSICAL ROLE -- THAT IS TO SAY, IN A MAJOR WAY.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES BE PREPARED TO SET UP SOME KIND OF SENSOR ARRANGEMENT AS WE DO IN THE SINAI?

A. AGAIN, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES BEING DISCUSSED. NO, I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO ALL OF THEM.

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Q. BUT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A UN FORCE HERE, RIGHT?

A. YES.

Q. AND NOT OUTSIDE THE UN -- A UN FORCE.

A. YES. I'M TALKING ABOUT A UN -- IN SHORTHAND -- INTERNATIONAL.

Q. ARE WE PREPARED TO PAY FOR SUCH A FORCE BEYOND OUR NORMAL QUOTA OF UN ASSESSMENTS?

A. AGAIN, WE WOULD CONSIDER WHATEVER POSSIBILITIES THERE MIGHT BE, AND THAT WOULD BE A CONSIDERATION WHICH WE HAVE TAKEN UP IN THE PAST.

Q. CAN YOU ESTIMATE FOR US HOW SOON THE CONSULTATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING WILL BE COMPLETED?

A. NO, I CAN'T. I NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME OTHER INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK TODAY -- I MEAN AMONG OTHER PARTIES -- WHICH JUST ENDED. WE, I WOULD SAY, MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE SOMETHING HAPPENING TOMORROW IN NEW YORK AS FAR AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL GOES.

Q. ARE YOU EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME INTERNA-

TIONAL FORCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS?

A. I AM NOT SEEKING TO EXCLUDE ANYTHING. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT IS, RIGHT AT THIS POINT, SOMETHING WHICH IS HIGH ON OUR CALENDAR OF POSSIBILITIES.

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Q. SO, IN OTHER WORDS , THE PARAMOUNT DIRECTION AT THE MOMENT OF U.S. POLICY IS TO TRY AND GET A UN FORCE INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. WOULD THAT BE FAIR THEN?

A. YES, WE ARE EXPLORING THAT POSSIBILITY VERY CLOSELY AND IT'S ONE THAT WE THINK WOULD BE USEFUL TO GO INTO FAR MORE FULLY IF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IS CALLED.

Q. BUT YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS THOUGH THERE ARE A WHOLE RANGE OF OPTIONS.

A. NO. LET ME SAY THE OPTIONS, WHATEVER THEY ARE, HAVE AS THEIR GOAL TWO THINGS: SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND THE EXTENSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE STATE DOWN TO AND INCLUDING THE BORDER TO THE SOUTH.

NOW, THOSE ARE THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH WE ARE AIMING. THE MEANS BY WHICH WE WOULD REACH THOSE OBJECTIVES OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT WRITTEN DOWN IN CONCRETE. WE ARE EXPLORING A NUMBER, IN OTHER WORDS.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW BEFORE THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETE? DOES THE UNITED STATES EXPECT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETE?

A. ON THAT ONE, THE BEST THAT I CAN DO IS TO REPEAT WHAT I'VE ALREADY SAID; AND I CAN GO AROUND IT, BUT I CAN'T COME OFF IT.

Q. HAVE WE HAD ANY INDICATION FROM THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THEY SHARE OR ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THESE AIMS AND WON'T VETO THE RESOLUTION?

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A. WE HAVE TALKED TO A NUMBER OF MEMBERS -- PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ASSURANCES ON THEIR BEHALF ON ANYTHING.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE RUSSIANS?

A. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING A POSITIVE ROLE PLAYED AND STABILITY RESTORED THERE, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION? THAT'S THE ONLY ONE.

A. WELL, THE ANSWER THERE IS THAT THEIR ROLE IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE SPELLED OUT BY THE SOVIET UNION AND NOT BY ME.

Q. IS PRIME MINISTER BEGIN STILL COMING HERE NEXT WEEK?

A. AS OF 23 MINUTES AGO, THE ANSWER IS YES.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION THAT ONLY CALLED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND DID NOT HAVE PROVISIONS FOR SOME ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHAT YOU CALL THE SECURITY AND STABILITY AND THE EXTENSION OF LEBANON?

A. WE BELIEVE THERE HAS TO BE A LINKAGE OF THESE QUESTIONS.

Q. WHAT IS IT THAT HAPPENED SINCE NOON TODAY THAT MEANT YOU COULDN'T DO THIS AT NOON? I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

A. AMONG OTHER THINGS, AS I TOLD YOU, THERE WAS ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING THAT JUST GOT THROUGH NOT VERY LONG AGO IN NEW YORK OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS OF INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION. IT WAS A CLOSED MEETING. I MEAN AMONG OTHER THINGS.

Q. WHAT IS THE THINKING, PLEASE, ON THE IDEA OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE? I MEAN THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT ABLE TO FIRE A SHOT ORDINARILY. HOW ARE THEY GOING TO PROVIDE FOR SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. AGAIN, YOU'RE ASKING ME FOR TECHNICAL ANSWERS TO WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A TECHNICAL QUESTION. I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU. I'LL BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU THE HISTORY OF

VARIOUS KINDS OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES WHICH HAVE DONE VARIOUS KINDS OF THINGS, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION.

Q. WELL, DO YOU ENVISION A COMBINATION, FOR EXAMPLE, OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES AND, LET'S SAY, THE LEBANESE ARMY -- OR A PHASING IN TO THE LEBANESE ARMY?

A. LET ME SAY THAT I REALLY WANT TO STRESS THE NOTION THAT THE END RESULT OF OUR OBJECTIVE HERE IS THE FULL SWAY OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY -- WHICH MEANS AS I WAS ASKED AT NOON: "DO YOU MEAN THE ARMY?" THE ANSWER IS YES -- THE MILITARY INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

Q. AN I'LL ALSO ASK YOU NOW: DO YOU WANT THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON OR JUST THE ISRAELIS SO THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY CAN INCREASE THEIR SWAY?

A. THE QUESTION OF WHAT FOREIGN FORCES, OF COURSE, LEBANON WISHES TO HAVE IN LEBANON -- ITS OWN TERRITORY -- IS A QUESTION --

Q. YES, BUT I KNOW YOUR OWN ATTITUDE IN THE HORN OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICA SO I'M ASKING YOU: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ALL FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM LEBANON? WOULD IT BE BETTER?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF EVERY NATION BE ABLE, OBVIOUSLY, TO PROTECT ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY WITH ITS OWN FORCES; AND THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH I WOULD APPLY GENERALLY.

Q. AS FAR AS A UN RESOLUTION, YOUR ANSWER WAS "WE BELIEVE THERE HAS TO BE A LINKAGE OF THESE QUESTIONS." NOW, IT ALMOST SEEMED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION YOU'VE REFUSED TO ANSWER EARLIER ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL AND THE ARRANGEMENTS.

A. NO. WHAT I WAS VERY CAREFULLY TRYING TO SAY, WHICH IS WHAT I KEEP SAYING, IS THAT WE BELIEVE THERE HAS TO BE ADEQUATE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. WE UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THAT. WE SAY BOTH THINGS: WE BELIEVE THERE MUST BE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. WE EXPECT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW.

Q. BUT WAIT. THE WORD "LINKAGE" COMES IN HERE THOUGH. YOU USED THE WORD "LINKAGE" NOW.

A. ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE A SOLUTION TO THIS OVERALL PROBLEM WITHOUT BOTH ELEMENTS.

Q. IS THAT LINKAGE IN TIME?

A. LINKAGE IN TIME IS NOT WHAT I'M OFFERING. WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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I'M OFFERING YOU HERE IS SIMPLY THAT BOTH OF THESE ARE ELEMENTS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR POLICY.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN MORE SPECIFIC WITH THE ISRAELIS THAN THEY ARE BEING WITH US? HAVE YOU TOLD THEM WHETHER YOU EXPECT THEM TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT OR WITH THESE SORT OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO WHAT WE HAVE TOLD THE ISRAELIS. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS CLEAR TO THEM.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR GAME PLAN IF THE SOVIET UNION OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY VETOES THIS? AND, SECONDLY, ARE YOU AGAIN GOING TO CREATE A VACUUM IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

A. IF THEY VETO WHAT?

Q. IF THE SOVIETS OR ANYBODY ELSE VETOES THE PLAN OF THE UN FORCE, FOR EXAMPLE -- THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

A. WELL, LET ME TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME. IF THAT HAPPENS, WE WILL THEN SEE. SO FAR WE DON'T HAVE THE PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE. I CAN'T EVEN DEAL WITH THE QUESTION. WHAT'S THE NEXT ONE?

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THOUGH THAT YOU'RE WILLING AGAIN TO CREATE A POWER VACUUM IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. LET ME SAY THAT -- AGAIN I WANT TO REPEAT -- WE ARE AWARE OF AND SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL'S CONCERNS ABOUT ITS SECURITY.

Q. DO YOU ACCEPT THE ISRAELI INSISTENCE THAT NO PLO UNIT SHOULD RETURN TO THAT PARTICULAR AREA?
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A. YES.

Q. DO YOU ACCEPT THIS SPECIFICALLY?

A. LOOK, I AM AT THIS POINT NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE FORMULATIONS OF ANY COUNTRY AND GO DOWN THEM 1, 2, 3 AND SAY WE ACCEPT OR REJECT. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE DONE, OBVIOUSLY, IN DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE WITH THEM. I TRIED TO SET THE WIDER PARAMETERS OF HOW WE STAND ON THE BASIC QUESTION. I JUST SPOKE TO THE QUESTION OF THE SECURITY AND STABILITY MATTER, AND THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO ON IT.

Q. THE LAST SENTENCE OF YOUR STATEMENT STIPULATES THAT ANY ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS OBJECTIVE -- WHICH MEANS THE OBJECTIVE OF LEBANESE AUTHORITIES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. IT SEEMS TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET THIS IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN THAT, FIRST, THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE ABSENT; AND, SECOND, THAT THE PALESTINIAN UNIT SHOULD NOT RETURN. IS THAT CORRECT? ARE YOU PREPARED TO SAY THAT?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO MAKE THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THESE WORDS AT THIS TIME.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES GOING TO PURSUE -- SPEAKING OF OVERALL PROBLEMS -- ACTIVE DIPLOMACY REGARDING A GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF TRYING TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING A GENERAL SETTLEMENT WHILE THIS EFFORT CONTINUES?

A. YES. WE'RE NOT CEASING OUR EFFORTS TOWARD A
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GENERAL SETTLEMENT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. IS THAT ANOTHER WAY OF ASKING ME WHETHER WE CONTINUE A DEBATE AND VISIT AND THAT SORT OF THING?

Q. IT'S ONE WAY OF ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU'RE STILL GOING TO TRY TO BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER.

A. YES, WE ARE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID TO US.

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION EVEN ARISES. THIS IS A STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY. VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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